

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., February 27, 2002
Third Corner Restaurant
2265 Bacon Street, San Diego, CA

Members Present:

Michael Chee
Bob Crouch
Ruth Heifetz
Anthony Manoguerra
Ed Moore
Bruce Morden
Jerry Spahn
Alan Thum
Malcom Vinje

Members Absent:

Bob Barrios (excused)
Daniel Elkerton
David Gomez (excused)
Ed Heidig (excused)
Carolyn Powers (excused)
Bob Shuster (excused)
Richard Gersberg (excused)
Richard Leap (excused)

Others Present:

Julie Ellery - Public
Gary Erbeck - DEH
Richard Haas - DEH
Marilyn Corodemas - DEH
Mike Dorsey, DEH
Jack Miller, DEH
Liz Quaranta, DEH

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental Health Advisory Board (EHAB) was called to order by the Vice-Chairman Malcom Vinje at 8:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from the December 12, 2001, meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

IV. DIRECTOR'S UPDATED/ACTIONS

A. General Remarks

None.

B. DEH Recruitment - Vacancy Report

Richard Haas reported there were 29 vacancies primarily as a result of adding the newly created positions in the stormwater program. Bruce Morden requested the Board be provided with information regarding LWQD's ongoing recruitment and outreach efforts for recruitment of the stormwater vacancies. Malcom Vinje asked for the number of applicants applying for EHS II and EHS III positions. Rich Haas discussed the 5% REHS premium pay effective July 1, 2002, recruitment of students from San Diego State, and the ongoing San Diego High School Student Internship Program. Rich Haas provided copies of DEH's vacancy report.

C. Stormwater Permit

Jack Miller, Chief of LWQD, reviewed the Standards Manual and its requirements. Education is a big component, workshops will be conducted, and handouts provided. The new County Ordinance and Standards Manual are in effect as of today. The Ordinance and Standards Manual can be located in the Project Clean Water website. Liz Quaranta is developing a handout for Food establishments in the County and Cities, in the future, regarding model programs pertaining to stormwater issues. The Project Clean Water business cards with the website address were distributed.

V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTIONS

A. Food Housing Division (FHD) Update

Liz Quaranta, Chief of FHD, briefed in the following areas: Recently four new staff hired in the FHD, three were trainees and one an experienced person from Los Angeles area. In addition, one experienced employee is being trained to fill a plan check vacancy. FHD is working on creating a Food Safety Advisory Committee. The first meeting was held in January 2002. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2002. The Committee will include representatives from each Food Industry group, School of Public Health, Safe Tables Our Priority (a consumer group), and the community EPI Division. FHD hopes to utilize the Food Safety Advisory Committee as a forum to exchange information on important food safety issues. The April meeting will include a presentation on bio-terrorism and food safety. In addition, FHD plans to work together with the FSAC members to obtain grants in order to carry out public health projects as a group. FHD has entered into an agreement with National City Schools to help them work through a new project

called "Food Safe Schools." FHD is involved in creating a new California Food Code, which replaces the existing State law and merges the Model Food Code and the best aspects of the Health and Safety Code. First draft will be ready to be presented to Industry sometime in June 2002. FHD has been working on standardization of inspections and extending that to FHD Plan Check unit. A standardization program is being developed to standardize the FHD Plan Checkers for quality assurance. This model will be presented to the Southern California Food Technical Advisory Community for implementation as a model that can be used Statewide. FHD is working together with the City of San Diego on illegal food vending. Lastly, FHD has formalized the Memorandum of Understanding with the community EPI Division setting roles/responsibilities for investigating food borne illness outbreaks.

B. Multi-Year Fees

Gary Erbeck reviewed the past fee adjustments and the request by Board of Supervisors to consider multi-year fee resolutions. Bob Copper, DCAO, Land Use and Environment Group is looking at multi-year fees for all LUEG departments. There will be additional information at a later date.

C. Radiation Health Contract

Mike Dorsey, Chief of HMD, gave a brief overview of the radiation health contract. Since the 80's DEH has had a radiation contract with the State of California's Department of Health Services. San Diego is one of the last two counties within the state that locally implements the programs. HMD negotiated the contract for this coming fiscal year 2002/2003. Additional funding will be needed from the General Fund to maintain the contract. There is no signed contract as of yet, HMD currently doing the work. A motion by Malcom Vinje, Vice-Chairman EHAB, that DEH staff draft a letter of recommendation for Bob Shuster's signature. Seconded. Approved.

D. Local Oversight Program Cutbacks

Jack Miller, Chief, LWQD indicated the State Water Board has advised DEH that there will be a 15% cut over the next 2 years in DEH's contract. The funding cuts are from the Local Oversight Program, which is the remediation of leaks from underground tanks. LWQD is in the process of drafting a proposal to make the cuts; the overall plan is to shift some of the workload over to the Voluntary Assistance Program (VAP).

E. Standardized DEH Website

Rich Haas discussed briefly the standardized DEH website and asked the EHAB members for comments/suggestions. Please call or email Rich. Handouts were distributed.

F. Water Quality Overview

Dr. Alan Thum, EHAB member, gave a very informative presentation on Water Quality. Topics included in discussion urban runoff permit, watershed planning and the urgency to implement. Cost associated with urban runoff will be significant. Need to shift to watershed based zoning. At the next EHAB meeting, the discussion will be continued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

**Wednesday, April 24, 2002, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 436 – 4th Floor, James R. Mills Building
1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

